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(71) Applicant  
Herman Malcolm Turner  
21 Brockholme Rd, Allerton, Liverpool, L18 4QG,  
United Kingdom

(72) Inventor  
Herman Malcolm Turner

(74) Agent and/or Address for Service  
Herman Malcolm Turner  
21 Brockholme Rd, Allerton, Liverpool, L18 4QG,  
United Kingdom

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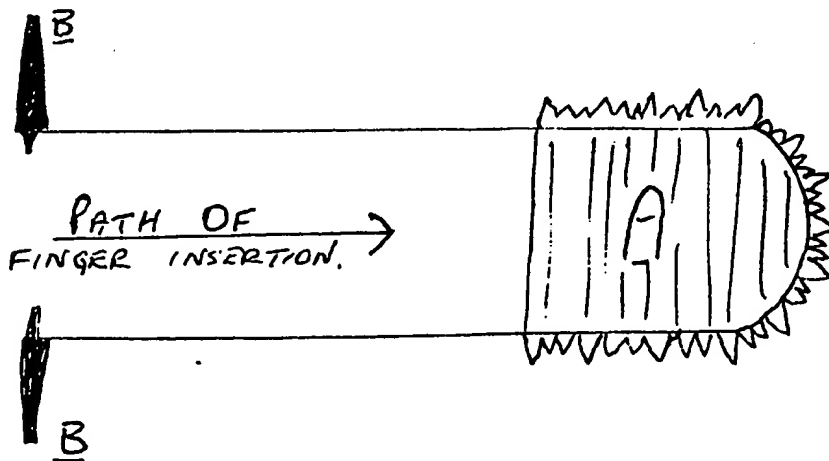
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(54) A tooth cleaning device

(57) The device is a sheath worn on the user's finger. The closed end of the sheath is covered by a pad A with a rough cleaning surface.

The pad is applied by the finger to the area to be cleaned and is activated by simple movement of the finger.

FIG 1



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FIG 1

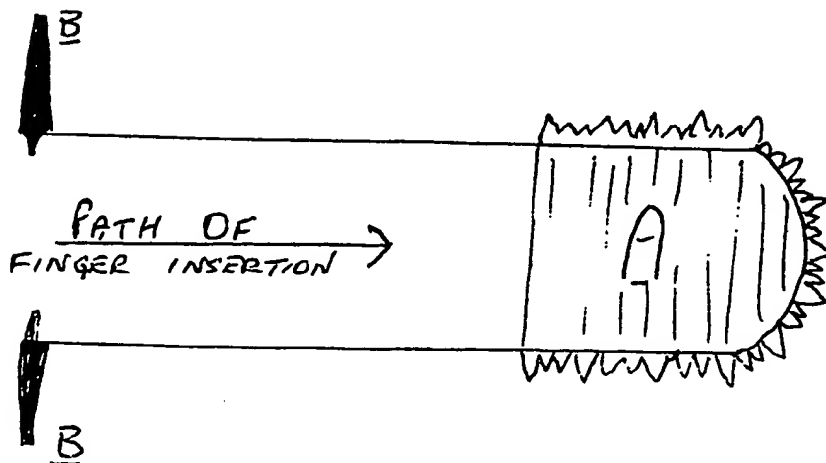
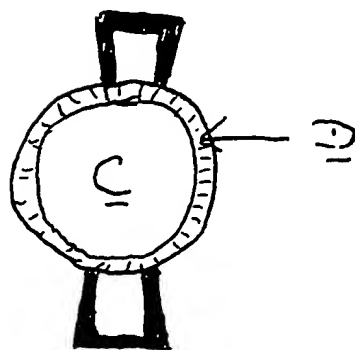


FIG 2



# 1 A TOOTH CLEANING DEVICE.

This invention relates to a tooth cleaning device.

The accepted method of cleaning teeth is the toothbrush.

A toothbrush consists of a long rigid handle with a working head made up of bunches of bristles arranged in varying lengths, shapes and numbers according to the manufacturer.

Handle shape, angulation, head size, bristle length and number, have been constantly varied over the years to try and overcome the following problems.

Teeth in the mouth are very rarely in straight lines. They may lean inwards or outwards. They may be outstanding or instanding, or even crossed over each other. Upper teeth may wholly overlap lower teeth at the front. The arches may be narrow.

All these factors, whether present singly or severally, prevent a straight handled brush from presenting the bristle head to all surfaces to be cleaned.

Bristles when pressed against teeth tend to deform and splay out, failing to maintain full contact with the surface to be cleaned.

The splaying becomes permanent and a brush in this condition can cause damage to hard and soft tissues.

The use of a toothbrush demands a significant degree of manual dexterity, the lack of which, in physical disability for instance, can render the use impossible.

The present invention consists of a flexible sheath, worn on the finger.

The entire area around the sheath, from the finger tip to at least the first joint, consists of a flexible pad with a rough surface.

The sheath and pad are constructed of waterproof material, resistant to oral fluids, tooth pastes, washing and drying.

A simple diagram at FIG.1. shows the outline of the device.

The cross hatched area at A. indicates the pad.

At B. is a raised tab to assist in the fitting or removal of the sheath.

The opening at C. FIG.2. may be sealed to the entrance of water by the flange D.

The entire device can be fabricated in sizes graded to suit from child size to adult.

CLAIMS.

This device changes the concept of a toothbrush.

The rigid handle is replaced by the finger which is flexible.

The bristles are replaced by a flexible pad which can be maintained in tooth contact by simple finger pressure.

There are no bristles to splay out and cause possible damage.

The cleaning surface, being continuous around the finger, can reach any surface without rotating the finger.

Present day thinking subscribes to a rotary scrubbing motion for cleaning teeth. This is very easy with this device.

Being continuous around the finger, the pad automatically rubs against the adjacent soft tissues. This too, is in line with today's thinking of cleaning all the oral tissues.

Gone is the need for other than minimal manual dexterity, something the handicapped will appreciate.